

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 ARA-16 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 EURE-00 SCI-06

EB-11 OMB-01 NIC-01 NEA-10 IO-14 /164 W

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P 171504Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4692

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15722

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, CU

SUBJ: BREZHNEV VISIT TO CUBA

REF: A. STATE 245645 B. MOSCOW 15313

1. EMBASSY HAS NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION WHICH WOULD CONFIRM OR DENY AP STORY, WHICH WAS WRITTEN BY STEPHENS BROENING. WE UNDERSTAND FROM BROENING THAT SOURCE OF HIS STORY, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH ADVANCE PLANNING FOR BREZHNEV VISIT. SOURCE ALLEGEDLY INDICATED THAT ADVANCE PARTIES WERE DELAYING DEPARTURE BECAUSE TRIP ITSELF HAD BEEN POSTPONED AT LEAST UNTIL MID-JANUARY.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, A REUTERS CORRESPONDENT CAME TO AP WITH THE STORY WHICH HE HAD APPARENTLY OBTAINED INDEPENDENTLY. HE SAID BOTY LATIN AMERICAN AND COMMUNIST SOURCES (NOT CLEAR WHETHER SOVIET OR EAST EUROPEAN) HAD REPORTED THAT THE TRIP HAD BEEN DELAYED. ACCORDING TO AT LEAST SOME OF THESE SOURCES, REASON FOR DELAY WAS TO AVOID BEING AT CASTRO'S JAN. 1 SPEECH IN WHICH U.S. WOULD BE HEAVILY ATTACKED. (HEAVY ATTACK COULD HAVE TO DO WITH CHANGED SITUATION IN CHILE WHICH  
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WAS UNKNOWN FACTOR AT TIME VISIT WAS ANNOUNCED IN JULY.)

3. SOVIET PRESS DECEMBER 15 REPORTED PRESENCE IN MOSCOW OF CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, MEMBER OF SECRETARIAT OF CUBAN CP CENTRAL COMMITTEE. RODRIGUEZ REPORTEDLY HERE FOR FOURTH SESSION OF SOVIET-CUBAN COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. AS WITH HIS LAST VISIT TO MOSCOW IN LATE SEPTEMBER, RODRIGUEZ'S PRESENCE COINCIDED WITH A CEMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. DURING HIS SEPTEMBER MEETING RODRIGUEZ WAS RECEIVED BY BREZHNEV; SO FAR THERE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF SUCH A MEETING THIS TIME.

4. SOVIET PRESS IN EARLY DECEMBER BEGAN WHAT APPEARED TO BE A BULLD-UP FOR BREZHNEV VISIT. REFTEL B NOTES PRAVDA ARTICLES DECEMBER 5 AND 6; NEW TIMES ALSO OFFERED LONG POSITIVE ARTICLE DECEMBER 7 ON CUBAN ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS. (NONE OF ARTICLES MADE SPECIFIC MENTION OF VISIT.) SUCH PRESS TREATMENT SEEMS TO HAVE DRIED UP DURING PAST WEEK -- A FACT WHICH WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH A RECENT DECISION TO POSTPONE VISIT.

5. WE CAN THINK OF NO COMPELLING INTERNAL REASONS FOR POSTPONING VISIT. WE DISCOUNT BROENING'S SPECULATION THAT BREZHNEV MAY FEAR LABOR UNREST STEMMING FROM FIRST-OF-YEAR PRICE RISES. EVEN LESS CONVINCING IS SPECULATION AMONG NEWSMEN HERE THAT BREZHNEV IS DELAYING TRIP SO HE CAN MAKE NEW YEAR'S EVE SPEECH. WHILE IT IS HIS TURN FOR SPEECH (PODGORNY AND KOSYGIN HAVING DONE IT IN PAST TWO YEARS), HE MUST HAVE KNOWN IN JULY -- WHEN TRIP TO CUBA ANNOUNCED -- OF POSSIBILITY OF SPEECH.

6. IF VISIT HAS INDEED BEEN POSTPONED, WE WOULD BE INCLINED TO LOOK FOR REASON IN FOREIGN POLICY AREA, ALTHOUGH HERE TOO EVIDENCE IS SLIM. REUTERS SPECULATION IN PARAGRAPH TWO IS ONE POSSIBILITY. ANOTHER IS THE IDEOLOGICAL PROBLEM ARISING FROM ALLENDE'S FALL. SOVIET SPECIALIST ON THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT CONFIRMED TO US SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THAT INTERPRETATION OF CHILEAN EVENTS WAS AGITATING MOVEMENT (REFTEL B). BUT CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIETS HAVE NOT INDULGED IN PUBLIC POLEMICS OVER THE PROBLEM AND IN ANY CASE IT WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO ACCOUNT FOR AN ABRUPT POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT. A THIRD POSSIBILITY IS A RENEWED ARAB OFFENSIVE IF GENEVA TALKS FAIL TO GET OFF THE GROUND; IF SOVIETS SEE THIS AS A LIKELIHOOD, THEN BREZHNEV WOULD NOT WANT TO BE OUT OF COUNTRY WHEN IT HAPPENED.

7. EMBASSY WILL TRY TO DEVELOP ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON  
URGENT BASIS.SOMMERLATTE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 17 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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